Lafayette Historical Society NEWS
Enlightening Our Community

Lafayette, California | April 2013 | Vol. 41, No. 2

Please Join us for our Annual Meeting, Potluck and Historical Presentation

Lafayette Historical Society's
Annual Meeting & Potluck

Thursday, May 16, 2013
Lafayette Library & Learning Center - Community Hall

6:00 pm - *Social Hour*
6:45 pm - *Dinner*
7:30 pm - *Short business meeting followed by:*

Richard Schwartz, Writer & Historian

Topic: October 21, 1868 – First-hand accounts of people who lived through the largest earthquake to be unleashed by the Hayward Fault.

Donation Requested: $10 LHS Members; **$15** Non-Members
*(**PLUS** – please bring your favorite hearty salad or casserole – and remember to bring serving utensils)*
Dessert and coffee will be provided by LHS Board Members.

For questions or reservations please call (925) 283-1848
or email Lafayette.History@comcast.net

Did you ever wonder what it would be like to be in the largest earthquake unleashed by the Hayward Fault?

Richard Schwartz will offer first-hand accounts of people who lived through the October 21, 1868 Hayward Fault Earthquake. Their stories are riveting. Mr. Schwartz will show many photos and illustrations to accompany his presentation of the history of what happened in the Bay Area before, during, and after the 1868 Hayward earthquake. As the USGS predicts that these maximum eruptions occur on the Hayward Fault, on average, every 140 years, this talk is a must-see, must-hear event for anyone who wants to know what may be in store for us at any moment.

Join us for a memorable and important illustrated talk by Richard Schwartz who has spoken on this subject to the "1868 Earthquake Alliance" at Mission San Jose on the *"Commemoration of the 140th Anniversary of the 1868 Hayward Fault Earthquake"* in 2008, at the Associated Bay Area Governments headquarters in Oakland and numerous other Historical Societies.

San Leandro Courthouse following 1868 Earthquake

Richard Schwartz

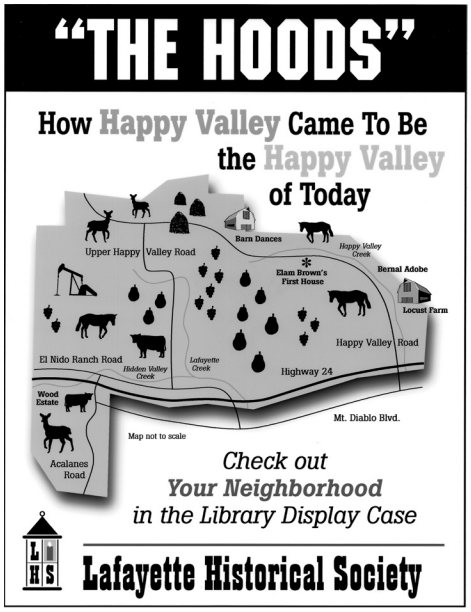
Richard Schwartz has spoken at hundreds of events and continues to promote history, while still working his day job as a building contractor. He also has recorded over 200 previously unknown local Indian sites, of which he sends reports to the State archive at Sonoma State University. He is currently working on a number of new history books. More on Mr. Schwartz can be found on his website www.richardschwartz.info

President's Message

The Contra Costa Library is 100 years old this year and the Lafayette Historical Society joined the Moraga and Orinda Historical Societies in celebrating this momentous occasion by participating in a program at the Lafayette Library. Attendees enjoyed hearing from Supervisor Candace Anderson, County Librarian Barbara Flynn, and viewed a visual history of the three communities and their libraries as well as a presentation on the current status of the Moraga Adobe by Kent Long. Thanks to Elsie Mastick and Margaret DePriester of the MHS and Lucy Hupp Williams of the OHS for their assistance in the program.

Please read the blurbs in this newsletter on two more of our fantastic History Room volunteers Kristen Johnston and John Otto. LHS is so fortunate to have such a wonderful group of volunteers with many diverse talents. Kristen has become our Photo Queen, organizing and cataloguing our ever growing collection of photographs and making it simple to locate and use photos in our archives. John Otto is a Board member with special artistic talents whose efforts have made our public image stand out on our signage, letterhead, business cards and wine labels!! Stay tuned for this year's vintage brew at the Annual Meeting and Pot Luck on Thursday, May 16th.

The second installment of the **"Lafayette Hoods"** is on display on the main floor of the library and tells the story of the Happy Valley area. Please stop by to learn about the history of another part of our city. Kudos go to Laura Torkelson and John Stevens for their efforts in putting together this informative display.



Mark your calendars now for our important and informative upcoming events:

> ***Thursday, May 16th*** – Richard Schwartz will discuss the 1868 Hayward Fault Earthquake following our Annual Meeting & Potluck additional information in this newsletter
> ***Wednesday, August 14th at 7:00 p.m.*** – Stu Swiedler will present "Key Events of the 20th Century East Bay Interpreted Through Aerial Views and Images of an Electric Railroad"
> ***Sunday, November 17th at 3:00 p.m.*** – John Fitzpatrick, Jr., Licensed Battlefield Guide-Gettysburg will present "'There is no fail here.' Why did President Lincoln come to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on November 18 and 19, 1863?"

While we're on the topic of events, I'd like to send a special **thank you to Debbie Cooper and Mechanics Bank.** We are able to plan all of our events to be held in the Community Hall because of the bank's generous sponsorship.

Now is the time to renew your Annual Membership or consider an annual donation. Your support helps maintain our History Room and the important artifacts and archives in our collections. Thanks to those of you who have already renewed your membership…..your ongoing support is greatly appreciated!! And we can always use more volunteers on a weekly (or occasional basis) so check with us if you're interested in helping.

- Mary McCosker

Do You Remember the Huddle Inn?

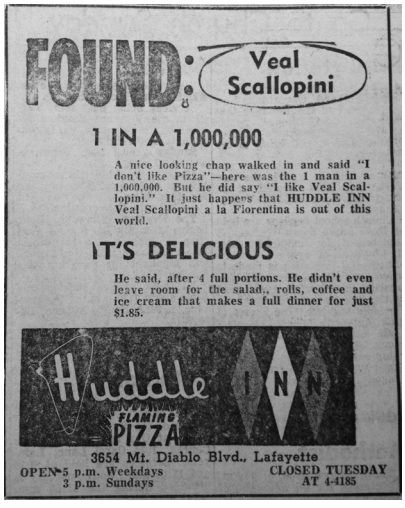
On a recent Tuesday afternoon, several volunteers were looking at a collection of aerial photos of western Mount Diablo Blvd., taken in the mid-1950s. Volunteer Sherril Barber pointed to a spot near the old Cape Cod House and said, "That's the Huddle Inn, where they served a flaming pizza!"

Everyone got interested in that culinary curiosity and began searching the bound volumes of the *Lafayette Sun* for information. The search was rewarded with several Huddle Inn ads. On September 21 and 22, 1956, there was an announcement of a "Grand Opening for the Huddle Inn, one-half block east of Cape Cod House next to Craig Oil Station, home of the Flaming Pizza." That advertisement went on to describe its offerings, with a little history lesson along with the menu offering:

"You will want to try these outstanding pizzas from our extensive menu.

Pizza Al Tonno Marie Antoinette *– Named for Marie Antoinette, queen of France, wife of Louis XVI, ninth child of Marie Theresa and the Emperor Francis I of Austria. Led to the guillotine on October 16, 1793, it has often been said, when told the French people had no bread: "Let 'em eat cake!' and that this caused the French people to hate her. Definite evidence now shows that she was not hated by any others than the leaders of the French Revolution and that her comment actually pleased the French people. Properly translated, the statement seems clearly to have been: 'They have no bread? Then let 'em eat Pizza!'*

Pizza Alla Caruso *– Named for Enrico Caruso, the most famous Italian tenor of all time. Superstitious to the extreme and subject to violent bouts with stage-fright, Caruso is said to have had this type of pizza especially prepared for him to settle his nerves and his stomach just prior to going on stage at each of his performances. For this reason, it is often called 'pizza Aida,' 'pizza Carmen,' or 'pizza Samson and Delilah.' It is said that at his last performance of Puccini's 'La Boheme,' he even brought a slice of one on stage with him and was seen offering a piece to the soprano just before she died. Contrary to the beliefs of some, Caruso himself died, not of acute indigestion, but of pleurisy, in Naples, on August 2, 1921."*


FOUND:
Veal Scallopini
1 IN A 1,000,000
A nice looking chap walked in and said "I don't like Pizza"—here was the 1 man in a 1,000,000. But he did say "I like Veal Scallopini." It just happens that HUDDLE INN Veal Scallopini a la Florentina is out of this world.
IT'S DELICIOUS
He said, after 4 full portions. He didn't even leave room for the salad., rolls, coffee and ice cream that makes a full dinner for just $1.85.
Huddle INN
FLAMING PIZZA
3654 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette
OPEN 5 p.m. Weekdays
3 p.m. Sundays
CLOSED TUESDAY
AT 4-4185

Note that neither colorfully named pizza discloses its ingredients, although Marie Antoinette's version references "tonno", which is the Italian for tuna. And neither is the origin or description of "Flaming Pizza" revealed. But according to our Pizza Correspondent Barber, the flames seemed to come from the center of the pizza –from a few drops of alcohol poured into a cup in the center of the pie and lit as it was served in the dining room. (You evidently had to ignite your take-home pie yourself.)

FOUND:
BEER LICENSE!
ONCE AGAIN ---
Coors or Imported Lawenbrau Beer by the glass or pitcher
NEW --- PIZZA DINNERS
Split a big pizza—add salad and beverage at 20c per person
GUESTS COMING?
Find out how you can serve large groups; a complete Pizza Dinner for about $1.00 per person.
Huddle INN
FLAMING PIZZA
3654 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette
OPEN 5 p.m. Weekdays
2 p.m. Sundays
CLOSED TUESDAY
AT 4-4185

Prices were reasonable, to say the least. When the restaurant opened, complete dinners (your choice: Veal Scalopini Florentina, Salisbury steak, baked or broiled halibut or oven baked chicken) could be had for $1.85, including coffee and dessert. In 1958, they advertised that if you ordered a large pizza you could add a salad and beverage for twenty cents a person. For groups of 25 or more, the Huddle Inn would cater dinner in your home. "You provide the plates, place and beverage, and the restaurant will deliver pizza, spaghetti, salad, and dessert".....all for $1 per person.

Further research didn't turn up when the Huddle Inn went out of business, but

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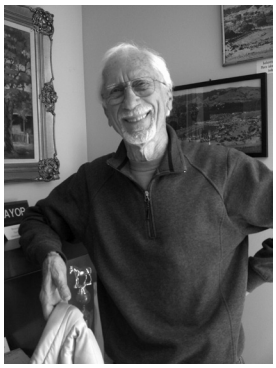
Meet Our Board and Volunteers

John Otto



If you've ever noticed a local organization with a really neat logo, chances are that it was designed by John Otto. Retired after a 40+ year San Francisco advertising career, John now gifts our community with his artistic talents. The list of groups with logos and other artwork by John includes the Lafayette Historical Society, the Lafayette Improvement Association, the Lamorinda Transportation Program, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation, and Boy Scout Troop 204. If it's an eye-catching logo, chances are John had something to do with it.

John grew up in Portland, Oregon and attended the University of Oregon, majoring in art. After a three year Army stint he studied advertising design on the GI Bill in Louisiana. He met and married his wife Sue in 1958 and moved to Lafayette in 1971. When his three sons were young he was active in Cub Scouts, Indian Guides and Boy Scouts (he served as Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 204).

John became a Board Member of LHS in 2011, and since that time his interest in learning about his adopted town of 41 years has grown. His CARDOODLE email messages keep his brain exercised. He has an interest in art history, the development of the computer and how it completely changed the communications field and the history of typography (like where do our letters come from and who drew them and when).

LHS is one of many organizations very thankful for John's time and talent!!

Kristen Johnston

Kristen began volunteering at LHS a year ago as part of an internship process for her library certificate and to gain some experience in archival work. Her original assignment was to correctly label photo files that were kept in file cabinets in the history room. After she became familiar with the photos she started a project to create a more condensed and easy to use filing system on the computer. She is using Past Perfect, our museum software program, to bring the search criterion on the photos stored there up to date.

Kristen is a local, having been born in Walnut Creek and spent most of her life living in Concord. She is studying at DVC to earn her Library Sciences Certificate and to improve her computer skills. She previously studied psychology at San Francisco State. She then spent twenty years in business management but later realized that she wanted to do something she enjoyed so she returned to school. Her current goal is to work for a special library or archive.

Kristen enjoys history as she believes it is an important part of who we are today. She loves knowing how places came to be and why they developed the way they did. It may be because she loves a good story – history is full of tales of adventure, struggle, success, love….and that every city should keep track of who founded it, the family lines and important events. She wishes more cities had programs like Lafayette, where local history is part of the educational plan. Knowing the history of the area you live in gives people a sense of civic pride, which is sorely missing now-a-days.

LHS is very fortunate to have Kristen as a volunteer as she brings skills to her volunteering that have enabled us to better organize and categorize many of our historical materials. We are happy to assist her in her internship as it has greatly benefited our organization!!

Do You Remember the Huddle Inn?

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we can only hope that the Inn and its fabulous flaming pizza went out in a blaze of glory.

It's sad that none of Lafayette's four fine pizza emporiums has carried on the tradition of the flaming pizza, introduced by the Huddle Inn more than half a century ago. It's even sadder that we'll never see prices like those again.

The Lafayette Historical Society has bound issues of the *Lafayette Sun* from 1937 to 1979 in its archives. They are available for research at any time. The LHS History Room is located in the Lafayette Library & Learning Center (enter on Golden Gate Way) and is open Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and by appointment.

- Ruth Bailey

2013-2014 Board of Directors

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Vice President: .....Marechal Duncan
Treasurer: .....Judie Peterson
Recording Secretary: .....Nancy Flood
Corresponding Secretary: .....Oliver Hamlin
Ruth Bailey
John Otto
Laura Torkelson
Michael Troutman
George Wasson
Contact Us: .....History Room - 283-1848
- or - lafayette.history@comcast.net

We Think You Might be Interested!

Saturday, April 13, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the Lafayette Library & Learning Center's Community Hall, The Gold Coast Chamber Players presents:

Aaron Copland's evocative Appalachian Spring and Alan Louis Smith's Vignettes: Covered Wagon Women in a full display of American spirit. Mezzo-soprano Catherine Martin is featured in a moving portrayal of pioneer life.

More information at http://www.gcplayers.org/

Thursday, April 25, 2013 You might want to join the Moraga Historical Society's excursion to Mont La Salle and the Hess Art Collection in Napa.

9:30 a.m. – Departure from Moraga Shopping Center (east parking lot by McCaulou's)
11:00 a.m. – Mont La Salle Tour led by Brother Mel Anderson
12:30 p.m. – Lunch at Mont La Salle Picnic Area
1:15 p.m. – Hess Art Collection Tour
2:00 p.m. – Hess Winery Tour and Tasting
4:30 p.m. – Return to Moraga

Transportation by Eastshore Charter Bus and catered lunch by Mont La Salle

$50 per MHS member, $55 non-member - Tour limit 45

Send checks made out to MHS to: Moraga Historical Society, P.O. Box 103, Moraga, CA 94556

Contact information at http://www.moragahistory.org/

Lafayette Historical Society
P.O. Box 133
Lafayette, CA 94549
www.LafayetteHistory.org

Return Service Requested

Lafayette Historical Society Membership Application

(Please photocopy form for additional names)

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City-Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Membership Categories and Annual Dues

(Please check one)

- ❑ Student Membership $10.00
- ❑ Individual Membership $25.00
- ❑ Family Membership $50.00
- ❑ Sponsor Membership $500.00

Please indicate areas of special interest

- ❑ Publicity
- ❑ Research-Genealogy
- ❑ Telephoning
- ❑ Displays
- ❑ Oral Histories
- ❑ History Room
- ❑ Data Base Entry of Photos
- ❑ Photo Collection
- ❑ News Clippings
- ❑ Fire Engine
- ❑ Walking Tours-Outreach
- ❑ Other_____

Please mail this application to:

Lafayette Historical Society
P.O. Box 133
Lafayette, CA 94549